

On the market: Couple's Palm Beach home was 'an idyllic place' to raise their family

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Priced at \$11.95 million, a Bermuda-style house at 151 Seagate Road on the North End was renovated and expanded as the Kaufman family grew.

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When Brad and Jill Kaufman bought their yellow-with-white-trim Bermuda-style home on the North End of Palm Beach in 1998, it was a dream come true.

“We are the rare people who grew up in Palm Beach County,” says attorney Brad Kaufman, co-president of the law firm Greenberg Traurig. “We met in grad school at Florida State University.

“Both of us grew up in middle-class families, and we are the ‘American work-ethics’ (success) story. We had dreamed of owning a home in Palm Beach. So when we saw the opportunity to move to the island as our careers developed, we jumped at it.”

Jill Kaufman also trained as an attorney but retired when the second of their three children was born.

And their home at 151 Seagate Road turned out to be exactly what the young family needed.

“We thought it would be an idyllic place to raise our kids, and boy, that was true. It was so wonderful. The other thing that is very special and we covet — we have a yard! We played keep-away, ziplining, football, all in our own yard.”

But with their children grown, the Kaufmans are eyeing a lifestyle change.

“Part of our motivation (for selling the house) is that our children live all over the place and we want to travel,” Brad says. “We are at that stage. It’s time for a condominium where we can lock the door and leave.”

And that means the Kaufmans are parting with their renovated-and-expanded four-bedroom, four-bathroom house, which was built in 1951. With 4,283 square feet of living space, inside and out, it’s priced at \$11.95 million, and Douglas Elliman Real Estate agent Steven Ploof holds the listing.

In the Kaufmans’ home, the living room, dining area and family room flow from one room to the next, with the kitchen and a bar off the dining space. Three guest bedroom suites also are on the first floor, along with two one-car garages and the laundry area.

The main bedroom suite, with doors that open to a pool-view, covered balcony, presides over the entire second floor. The suite includes a walk-in closet and a bathroom with double vanities, a walk-in shower and a free-standing tub.

Floors throughout the house are a mix — mahogany, travertine and tile. A highlight in the living room is the gas fireplace, and details of the kitchen include mahogany cabinetry, granite counters and stainless-steel professional-grade appliances.

Facing their backyard is an awning-covered porch with a summer kitchen, just adjacent to the pool and whirlpool spa.

“The house was very small — 1,900 square feet — when we bought it,” Brad Kaufman recalls. “Having three kids, we doubled its size, but we tried hard not to damage the charm of it being a Bermuda beach cottage and maintaining the footprint of our yard, because that was important to us.”

Renovated house features custom-designed ‘dream’ kitchen

They carried out the renovations in phases, he explains. First, they modernized the kitchen, and then added the family room and bar, as well as their second-floor bedroom suite. Then they added the second one-car garage and built out the awning-covered pool-view porch.

Their latest project was to build a full laundry room.

“In the days of these original Bermuda beach houses, people tended to have the washer and dryer in the garage.

“And right before the pandemic, we redid our bathroom,” Brad Kaufman says.

The Kaufmans have also enjoyed their neighborhood.

“It’s a great place to raise a family. At one end of our street is the (North Shore Cabana Association’s) beach cabana that families on our street share with families living on Dolphin and Reef roads, and at the other end are the Sailfish Club and Lake Trail.

“It’s been 25 years of our life in that home — we’ll miss it,” Brad Kaufman says. “Literally, every great moment of our lives has coincided with a time in that home.”

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